

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2406
ANSWERED ON:22.07.2009
CGHS FACILITY TO PIB ACCREDITED JOURNALISTS
Saroj Shri Tufani

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether CGHS facility is being extended to PIB accredited journalists;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the number of journalists to whom the said facility has been extended till date;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to extend the facility to the spouse and dependents of the journalists;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether the journalists are being charged for this facility; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABIAZAD)

(a) & (b): Yes. CGHS facilities is being extended to journalists accredited with PIB, Delhi, on the principle of cost recovery basis. The cost worked out by the Cost Accounts Division of the Department of Expenditure for the year 2004 – 05 was Rs. 1,067/- per annum. CGHS Cards of 48 Journalists who have paid Rs.1,067/- have been renewed so far.

(c) to (f): The principle of CGHS facilities being made available to Central Government servants and Central Government pensioners is that they are drawing salaries / pension from the Civil Budget of the Government of India. PIB accredited Journalists are not employees of the Government of India and are, therefore, not entitled to avail CGHS facilities. However, PIB accredited journalists are enrolled in the CGHS only as individual members.